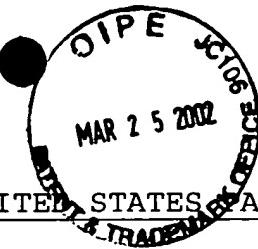


S/N: 09/675,197



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christophe Pierrat & Youping Zhang

Atty. Dkt. No.: NTI-019-2 (711)

Assignee: Numerical Technologies, Inc.

Title: Dissection of Edges with Projection Points
Fabrication Layout for Correcting Proximity
Effects

Serial No. 09/675,197 File Date: 09/29/2000

Examiner: Leigh M. Garbowski Art Unit: 2825

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March 15, 2002

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before beginning a substantive examination of the above application, please replace the following paragraphs and drawings as indicated.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, line 17 to page 5, line 10 should be replaced with:

Figure 1B illustrates various ways mask items 190 are modified to correct for such effects. Figure 1B is not a particular example of a particular set of corrections that actually mitigate the proximity effects illustrated in Figure 1A. The corrections available include hammerheads 192 (i.e. hammerheads 192a and 192b) added to ends of items to compensate for overexposure of the entire end line of a feature. Also shown are biases 196 (i.e. biases 196a and

B!